

**VESTRY MEETING – 7 NOVEMBER 2022, 19.30, in-person & on Zoom
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WATERLOO**

Present: Rev. Sunny Hallanan (Rector), Nick Fern (Junior Warden), Paul Hirsch, Derek Pullinger, Carol Ducastel, Kathi-Sue Rupp, Mike Breton (Treasurer)
Online: Vincent Musschoot, Jane McBride, Susan Downhill (Senior Warden)
Staff: Fiona White

1. Jane McBride opened the meeting with a **prayer**.
2. **Absences:** Rev. Katie Osweiler (Curate)
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes from 10 October were approved.
4. **Vestry check-in:** Jane led a discussion about hope. She and five others formed Oasis iHope which meets to share poems and ideas on the subject. There are so many different forms of hope. What brings each Vestry member hope? Seeing the silver lining in the things around us; hope for more public transport and having people use it; a reduction in the use of oil and fossil fuels. Are we putting our hope in technology instead of God? It was felt that God gives us the skills and tools to invent these technologies. Mike Breton felt that hope needs to be an attitude, to which Sunny Hallanan responded that he is the only treasurer she's had in 35 years who has had hope for all that's been asked of him! The discussion then turned to depression and suicide, and the large number of people who end their lives because they have no hope, or feel that their loved ones will be better off without them. Sunny asked if there are ways ASC as a community can give hope? Is the church a source of hope? It was felt that having the Ukrainians here was a source of hope, as is our community outreach and our coming together on a Sunday.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - 5.1 **Finance**
 - a. Mike confirmed that the outreach payments noted last month have all been made, including one for Pakistan.
 - b. A further payment has been made to our lender, bringing the amount paid so far this year to €40,000. Our goal is €50,000 for the year.
 - c. He has done some figures on the installation of the boiler. €45,000 was put aside and €20,000 was received in a grant and loan from the Convocation. The total expenditure was €44,655.60, made up as follows:
 - 5,172.75: Ores connection to mains;
 - 36,537.87: Manfroy Chauffage: boiler installation, gas leak detector, replacement thermostats and radiator valves;
 - 2,344.98: Maxi-Cleaning: removal of oil and sludge from oil tank, plus cleaning and neutralizing with foam.
 - d. A certificate of neutralization has been prepared for us by Maxi-Cleaning.
 - e. Nick Fern still has to chase Engie for a possible payment of €400.
 - f. Mons is a mission of ASC and receives all of its funding from a Convocation grant. But it cost an unanticipated €3,000 to get the Mons youth to the event in Italy and the missions conference in June, so the mission is completely out of money. ASC's budget is currently helping it to get through to the end of the

year (about €600). In addition, they are still unable to get their own bank account. A €6,000 grant will become available to Mons in January for 2023.

g. Inflation is currently around 10% so we must budget accordingly.

5.2 Building & property

- a. Paul Hirsch had circulated his report (attached).
- b. During Covid, signs were put up for health safety but these are still viable, the main one being keeping the lids of toilets down.

5.3 Outreach & service

- a. Derek Pullinger reported that €250 would be sent to Domisum in the spring to go towards something for their outdoor area. They will have an open day on 28 November (see attached report). Derek is away but would like someone to go.
- b. There is €840 outreach money left to spend this year. With about €300 from the concert, this will leave us €1,140 to help members of our community with increased fuel costs. The idea is to put it in the rector's discretionary fund.
- c. The weekly Ukrainian art classes are going well, alternating between Thursdays and Saturdays. It would be good if more people from ASC attended.

5.4 Our community

- a. Carole Ducastel thanked everyone who helped with Joëlle Vanopbroeke's concert. There was a good ambiance at the reception afterwards. Fifty people came and €922.50 was raised through ticket sales (to be confirmed). From the net profit, €300 should go to both ASC outreach and Solidarité Grands Froids.
- b. Thanksgiving is on 20 November. Three turkeys will be purchased and a good number of people have already signed up.
- c. Kathi-Sue and Darryl Rupp are inviting parishioners to a Christmas carol singalong at their home on 17 December at 19.00 for carols and a pot-luck dessert. Signing up isn't necessary but bringing a dessert is. Fiona White said she would accompany the singing.
- d. Carole thanked Fiona for including the cultural center information on the website. Regarding the calendar on the website, she suggested a differentiation in color between services and other events.
- e. The Community carol service is planned for 14 December, with glühwein and mince pies afterwards. Mike will make sure there is enough wine; Nick will get the mince pies.
- f. Heather Charlton has offered to give a concert in the New Year.

5.5 Education & environment

- a. There was nothing to report.

6. Other business:

6.1 Mutual Ministry Review: Susan has not heard from Linda Grenz regarding the questionnaire. She felt that at this point it would be better to have a dedicated Zoom meeting to go through the questions as soon as she has them. Then the questions can be sent to the congregation, giving them a set time (no more than 2 weeks) within which to respond.

6.2 ASBL update: Susan said Marc Smets has reached out to a bank in his area to see if it's possible to get an ASBL account opened. Bill Bythell is still in the process of filing the statutes. Susan will present the idea about Vestry members joining the ASBL at next month's meeting.

6.3 Safeguarding plan: This will be presented by Sunny at the next meeting.

6.4 Convocation Convention: Susan and Fiona's report was circulated (and is attached here). Vincent Musschoot was also there, for the Namur Mission, and Balthazar Nahimana and Schola Nsambimpa represented Mons.

The resolutions were voted on online just 2 days ago. We will be urged to appoint a Beloved Community Coordinator, as will all the churches in the Convocation. They will form a network with an appointed Beloved Community Missioner for the Convocation with a view to enhancing racial justice and building a beloved community. Sunny's resolution was passed, encouraging companion relationships to be set up between parishes, to experience different worship and preaching styles, cultures and gifts. We could be more intentional with our missions within Belgium. Carol suggested Mons and ASC getting together with St Paul's in Rome.

For the special Convocation Episcopal Relief & Development fund for refugees, ASC will put in a grant application for the Ukrainian art class for €3,000. Sunny may also apply for a €10,000, 1-year grant for a new program for Mons. The mission has no meeting place so the plan is to rent a storefront so that those people can meet there, hold bible studies and meetings. It would be down to the Mons congregation to run it.

6.5 Any other business:

Mike requested having a pledge Sunday for Stewardship. The bank account provided on the form needs to be revised. It was suggested that this form could be sent to everyone in the parish via Google Forms.

Vincent has met with the St Vincent de Paul Society in Namur. They say they have no need for clothes in the area but they do need food. He will go to one of their meetings to find out more and report back.

7. Curate's report: Katie's report is attached.

8. Rector's report: Sunny welcomed and congratulated Vincent, who was received at the Convocation Convention as our newest Episcopalian.

She is the new Vice President of Council of Advice but promises to not let this take much of her time from the parish. She will discuss a plan with the Commission on Mission Congregations about her sabbatical.

Her family will visit 3-16 January and they will take the opportunity to travel but will be here on Sunday, 15 January.

9. Closing prayer: Jane offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 21.27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Episcopal Church Europe: Convention 2022, Clermont-Ferrand, 27-30 October

ASC delegates: Susan Downhill & Fiona White

Convention began at 14.00 on the Thursday afternoon with the first keynote speaker, Rev. Dr Lorenzo Lebrija. Unfortunately our train was late in arriving and we only got to the Convention hall as the questions started. But we were there for everything else.

There was a good community of clergy and delegates attending, and a good number of both online. While Fiona attended to the music preparation of the first service, Susan listened to the Bishop's address, where he renewed his theme that the Episcopal Church in Europe is a church of migrants.

The Bishop's banquet took place on the first evening in a restaurant in the city. There was good food and wine, and many people were recognised for their work, including Sunny, who has been a rector in Europe for more than 10 years.

Friday morning saw an overview of the financial report for 2021. The Convocation is in good health and the accounts were approved. This was followed by a report on the Council of Advice and the Youth Ministry. Then Thoma Lipartiani (Tbilisi) put forward a resolution to have Ilya Chavchavadze, considered by many as the father of the Georgian nation, included in the lectionary calendar.

The Convention was then closed and the Festival of Gathering opened. Following last year's Convention in Nice, people had asked for something educational to be included in the meeting. As a result, this year's Convention was started back in mid October with several online sessions so as to make room for the educational gathering. The subject chosen was 'Welcoming and Walking with Refugees'. Abigail Nelson, executive vice-president of ERD, gave the first keynote address. 1% of the world's population is on the move; 1 million people have left Ukraine in the last 6 months; 4.2 million people have registered for the EU protection scheme to give them jobs, education and healthcare.

Following her address, we had a choice of workshops to go to. Fiona went to 'Walking with the Traumatized'. Here she learnt how resilient many refugees are (coping skills) in escaping but are then traumatized by their new surroundings. They need to feel empowered and a sense of belonging. The church can provide a therapeutic community but it must know how to contact the local mental health system for professional help. Susan went to Rev Lebrija's "try tank" presentation. TryTank Experimental Laboratory is a project of the Episcopal Church to try (sometimes off-the-wall) experiments for church growth and innovation. Rev Lebrija outlined his method: a sound framework for testing new ideas.

The second keynote address, given by Andrej Jeftic, an academic and consultant for the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, was on hospitality – 'Welcoming God in the Face of the Stranger'. Here we learnt the theological basis for being prepared to welcome the unexpected and offer hospitality before it is sought.

In the second workshop slot Fiona went to a talk on implementing a grant to support ministry with refugees. Participants were given advice on how to complete the online form. Grants are for €10,000 with a timeline of 3 to 12 months. Once granted, support is offered throughout the project, which can be renewed and its budget extended. Susan listened to a talk on work with refugees being done in Cyprus in the Episcopal Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. The emphasis was on doing what you could – some of the Cypriot episcopal churches are tiny, but they achieve amazing things.

The third keynote address was given by Safek Pavey, senior advisor to UNHCR. UNHCR are putting together a multi-religious council of leaders. The UN has not had a relationship with faith groups in the past but recognizes that these bodies are more long-lasting. Even

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COVID did not make a serious dent in refugee numbers: in 2022 there are around 87 million displaced people worldwide; in 2023 this is expected to reach 100 million and more. The UN is looking for more solidarity with others and asking religious groups to approach the UN's national representatives so that we can all work together to help those in need.

The final workshop Fiona attended was on the perils of trafficking. The stories told here were quite horrific. 50 million people are estimated to be trapped in some form of modern slavery across the world and there could be slaves working right under our noses. There is a need to look at all the projects around us with fresh eyes. Susan went to a session called "But the Government does that!", an interesting talk by a civil servant and Wiesbaden parishioner about the response of the city of Wiesbaden to the refugees who end up there.

The tiny congregation of Christ Church, Clermont-Ferrand made us very welcome and our time there concluded with a Sunday service followed by a picnic in the church grounds. Thankfully the weather held.

Susan Downhill & Fiona White

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Building group report

Humidity.

A fairly large quantity of water was needed to top up the heating circuit water level. There's a concern there might be a leak although the most recent analysis of the building showed no traces of internal humidity. Further monitoring of additional water needs to be carried out to ascertain there is a leak or not.

Heating.

The central heating supplier came to check the defective thermostatic valves. Hopefully all is ok now.

Fuel tank.

The tank has been with foam and the supplier issued us with the required certificate.

Garden.

Tidied up and plants, given by a neighbour, added.

Painting.

Church main doors redone. Hopefully everybody noticed and appreciated.

Data connection.

Wire between the church and the office tidied in the most invisible possible way.

Next steps.

Clean up the leaves the messy trees dropped on the parking.

Decide if we want trees planted in the back garden. If so, which species?

Repaint the railing leading to the crèche and downstairs toilets.

Paul Hirsch

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Outreach report

Since our last Vestry meeting on 10/10/2022, we have paid €250 to Oasis, Natagora, the Protestant Centre and the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund.

A further €200 has been raised during the 3rd quarter for Outreach (coffee, cakes, etc.).

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I wish to point out the **Domisum** house opens its doors on 28th November 2022:

Venez découvrir la maison et notre projet, venez partager le verre de l'amitié.

au 53 Verte Voie, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

dès 17h, accueil et visites

à 18h30 et à 19h30, présentation du projet par l'équipe

à 20h, clôture en musique

I have spoken with Sylvette and we have agreed that the payment of our 2022 grant of €250 should be postponed until March/April 2023 and be used for garden furniture / accessories (seats, bench.....).

There now remains an amount of €846.00 unallocated, which can be used to help parishioners struggling with their utility bills (see attached table).

Derek Pullinger

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Curate's report

Sorry for my absence this evening but I completely forgot that I have an online class with Rev. Ali Gray on Mental Health. It's been a great course so far and she'll be holding another one in the new year if you're interested.

Updates from me are very small: I had a great time in San Francisco visiting old friends, hanging out with my mom and performing a wedding for friends I met in Belgium who moved back to the USA.

Many of you heard that Victor and I took a camper van to Convention this year! One of Victor's retirement dreams was to travel Europe in a camper van and we thought we'd try it out going to Clermont-Ferrand! Convention was a success and I really enjoyed the Festival of Gathering on walking with migrants and refugees. Also, Fiona did a great job playing the keyboard for the music and helping with the choir... all at the last minute!

Coming up I have a trip to Leipzig, Germany to meet with other Lutheran leaders in Europe and the Middle East, 15-19 Nov. Other than that, nothing happening in the life of your Curate :)

Thank you all for the great support and birthday love this Sunday. It's been a pretty good day so far.

Rev. Katie Osweiler